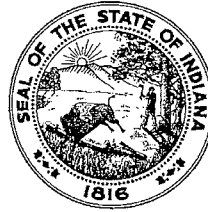


STATE *of* INDIANA



INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
101 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 1500 EAST
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-3419

www.in.gov/iurc
Office: (317) 232-2701
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September 19, 2019

Marlene H. Dortch, Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45/WC Docket No. 14-58, Annual State Certification of Support for Eligible
Telecommunications Carriers Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.314

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to the requirements of 47 C.F.R. § 54.314, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) hereby certifies to the Federal Communications Commission and the Universal Service Administrative Company that the telecommunications carriers included in the attachment to this letter (Attachment A) are eligible to receive federal high-cost support for the program years cited.

The IURC certifies for the carriers listed that all federal high-cost support provided to such carriers within Indiana was used in the preceding calendar year (2018) and will be used in the coming calendar year (2020) only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.¹

Sincerely,

Beth E. Heline
General Counsel
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
bheline@urc.in.gov
317-232-2092

Enclosures: IURC Order and Attachment A – Carrier Certification List
cc: Vice President, High Cost Program, Universal Service Administrative Company

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 54.314(a) (“Certification. States that desire eligible telecommunications carriers to receive support pursuant to the high-cost program must file an annual certification with the Administrator and the Commission stating that all federal high-cost support provided to such carriers within the State was used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the coming calendar year only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. High-cost support shall only be provided to the extent that the State has filed the requisite certification pursuant to this section.”)



STATE OF INDIANA

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSION'S 2019)
CERTIFICATION OF RURAL CARRIERS')
ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE FEDERAL HIGH-)
COST UNIVERSAL SUPPORT, PURSUANT TO)
THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996,)
THE FCC'S MAY 23, 2001 ORDER, AND OTHER)
RELATED FCC ORDERS.)

CAUSE NO. 45239

APPROVED: SEP 18 2019

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Presiding Officers:

David E. Ziegner, Commissioner

David E. Veleta, Senior Administrative Law Judge

On May 23, 2001, the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") issued an Order ("the FCC's Rural Task Force Order" or "RTF Order")¹ assigning state commissions the responsibility of certifying that rural carriers or competitive eligible telecommunications carriers ("ETCs") designated to receive high cost support in the service areas of rural carriers are using federal high-cost support in a manner consistent with the requirements of Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Pursuant to Section 254(e), carriers must use universal service support "only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended." The FCC's RTF Order provided that state certifications should be submitted by October 1 each year for payments to be made during the following calendar year. These requirements were modified on November 18, 2011, in the FCC's comprehensive order reforming the federal universal service fund and intercarrier compensation system, the USF-ICC Transformation Order ("USF/ICC Order").² The FCC updated and extended the federal annual reporting requirements to all ETCs that receive federal high-cost support. Furthermore, the USF/ICC Order continues to require states to certify that all state designated ETCs are eligible to receive federal high-cost support for the upcoming year and specified these requirements in its regulations in 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313 and 54.314. If a carrier is not certified by its state commission, it will not receive federal high-cost support. Thus, we opened this proceeding for the purpose of completing the 2019 FCC ETC recertification process.

Upon reviewing the completed applications, the Commission now finds that the applications that have been submitted by the applicants listed in Attachment A demonstrate the requisite compliance with the requirements of Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, as interpreted by the FCC's RTF Order, USF-ICC Order, related FCC Orders and regulations, and this Commission's August 22, 2001 Order.³ More specifically, based on the completed applications, we find that all entities listed in Attachment A to this Order will be using federal high-cost support only

¹ *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Multi-Association Group (MAG) Plan for Regulation of Interstate Services of Non-Price Cap Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers and Interexchange Carriers*, (16 FCC Rcd. 11244) (2001).

² *Connect America Fund*, (26 FCC Rcd. 17633) (2011).

³ See Consolidated Cause No. 40785, 42067, approved August 22, 2001

for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with Section 254(e).

We note there is an exception for recently designated ETCs awarded high-cost funding in the Connect America Fund II Reverse Auction. The FCC indicated in a Public Notice ⁴ that these ETCs would not be required to submit FCC 481 forms, and state commissions would not be required to file 54.314 certifications for this type of ETC until 2020. We note that these ETCs' designations, and in one case an expansion of its service area, were approved by this Commission on February 20, 2019.⁵ As a part of this process, the ETCs submitted assurances and evidence that universal service funds will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. Accordingly, our review in this proceeding did not include the recently designed ETCs awarded high-cost funding in the Connect America Fund II Reverse Auction.

In accordance with the FCC's RTF Order and the USF/ICC Order, we direct the Commission's Secretary to inform the Universal Services Administrative Company ("USAC") and the FCC that this Commission has certified that the carriers identified in Attachment A to this Order have met the requirements of Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED BY THE INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION that:

1. The Indiana carriers identified in Attachment A to this Order shall be, and hereby are, certified by this Commission as having satisfied the requirements of Section 254(e).
2. The Commission's Secretary shall inform the FCC and USAC by October 1, 2019 that the aforementioned Indiana carriers have been so certified.
3. The Commission's Secretary shall forward a copy of this Order to all carriers identified in Attachment A.
4. This Order shall be effective on and after the date of its approval.

HUSTON, KREVDA, OBER, AND ZIEGNER CONCUR; FREEMAN ABSENT:

APPROVED: SEP 18 2019

**I hereby certify that the above is a true
and correct copy of the Order as approved.**



Mary M. Becerra
Secretary of the Commission

⁴ FCC Public Notice DA 19-414, released May 14, 2019

⁵ See Cause Nos. 41052 ETC 77 (Mercury Wireless Indiana, LLC); 41052 ETC 78 (W.A.T.C.H. TV Company), 41052 ETC 79 (Marshall County Fiber, LLC), 41052 ETC 32 S1 (Perry Spencer Rural Telephone Cooperative), 41052 ETC 80 (Wisper ISP Inc.), and 41052 ETC 81 (Orange County Rural Electric Membership Corporation).

Attachment A
Carrier Certification List
IURC Cause No. 45239

Eligible Telecommunications Carrier	Study Area Code
Indiana Bell Telephone Company Incorporated d/b/a AT&T Indiana	325080
Bloomington Home Telephone Company, Inc.	320742
CMN-Rus, Inc. (formerly known as Cinergy MetroNet)	329010
Camden Telephone Co., Inc.	320744
CenturyTel of Central Indiana, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink	320747
CenturyTel of Odon, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink	320801
Citizens Telephone Corp.	320751
Clay County Rural Telephone Coop., Inc.	
d/b/a Endeavor Communications	320753
Communications Corporation of Indiana	320776
Communications Corporation of Southern Indiana	320809
Craigville Telephone Co., Inc.	320756
Daviess-Martin County Rural Telephone Corp.	320759
Frontier Communications of Indiana, LLC	320750
Frontier Communications of Thorntown, LLC	320828
Frontier Midstates Inc. d/b/a Frontier	323034
Frontier North, Inc. d/b/a Frontier	320772/320779
Geetingsville Telephone Co., Inc.	320771
Hancock Rural Telephone Corp. d/b/a NineStar Connect (a/k/a Hancock Telecom)	320775
Central Indiana Communications, Inc. d/b/a NineStar Communications	
(f/k/a Hancock Communications)	329007
Home Telephone Company, Inc.	320778
Home Telephone Company of Pittsboro, Inc.	320777
Ligonier Telephone Company, Inc.	320783
Merchants & Farmers Telephone Company, Inc.	320788
Monon Telephone Co., Inc.	320790
Mulberry Cooperative Telephone Company, Inc.	320792
New Lisbon Telephone Co., Inc.	320796
New Lisbon Broadband and Communications, LLC	326111
New Paris Telephone, Inc.	320797
Northwestern Indiana Telephone Co., Inc.	320800
Perry-Spencer Rural Telephone Coop., Inc.	320807
Pulaski-White Rural Telephone Coop., Inc.	320813
Rochester Telephone Co., Inc.	320815
SEI Data, Inc.	329009
S&W Telephone Co., Inc.	320816
Smithville Communications, Inc.	320818
Southeastern Indiana Rural Telephone Coop., Inc.	320819
Sunman Telecommunications Corp., Inc.	320825
Swayzee Telephone Co., Inc.	320826
Sweetser Rural Telephone Co. Inc.	320827
Tipton Telephone Co., Inc.	320829
Tri-County Telephone Co., Inc.	320830
United Telephone of Indiana, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink	320832
Washington County Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	320834
West Point Telephone Company, Inc.	320837
Yeoman Telephone Company, Inc.	320839